

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An audio conferencing method in a hybrid network, said hybrid network having a plurality of endpoints connected to an audio conference therein, said audio conferencing method comprising the steps of:

receiving in a bridge server input from at least one endpoint in said plurality of endpoints connected to the audio conference;

selecting in said bridge server ~~an MCU~~ a multiple control unit from a plurality of multiple control units located at said bridge server to mix said received ~~input~~; input to form an output stream and a sum stream;

matching the output stream with the at least one endpoint and the sum stream with other endpoints in said plurality of endpoints connected to the audio conference;

returning from said ~~MCU~~ multiple control unit ~~a voice stream to each of the output stream to the at least one endpoint and the sum stream to said other endpoints in said plurality of endpoints connected to the audio conference.~~

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1 further supporting full service audio conferencing using a reservation system and a call agent.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2 wherein the reservation system and the call agent are tightly integrated.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 2 wherein the reservation system and the call agent are loosely integrated.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 further including the step of dynamically routing an operator voice path to service ~~multiple MCUs~~ said plurality of multiple control units.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 further including the step of renegotiating the destination of a voice path to move an audio conference participant from said selected ~~MCU~~ multiple control unit to a second ~~MCU~~ multiple control unit.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 further including the step of moving said audio conference from said selected ~~MCU~~ multiple control unit to a second ~~MCU~~ multiple control unit.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 further including the steps of:
providing said audio conference to a streaming protocol server from said selected ~~MCU~~ multiple control unit;
connecting a passive participant to said streaming protocol server; and
broadcasting said audio conference from said streaming protocol server to a passive participant.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of endpoints has both circuit-switched endpoints and packet-based endpoints.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein said ~~MCU~~ multiple control unit is part of a bridge server having a media gateway therein.

Claims 12-26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (new): An audio conferencing method in a hybrid network, said hybrid network having a plurality of endpoints connected to an audio conference therein, said plurality of endpoints having both a circuit-switched endpoint and a packet-switched endpoint, said audio conferencing method comprising the steps of:

receiving in a media gateway input from a corresponding endpoint in said plurality of endpoints connected to the audio conference;

transferring said received input to a multiple control unit;

mixing in said multiple control unit the transferred received input with other input to form a) an output stream that is the sum of each input from said plurality of endpoints exclusive of the input from the corresponding endpoint and b) a sum stream;

matching a) the output stream with the corresponding endpoint and b) the sum stream with other endpoints in said plurality of endpoints connected to the audio conference;

returning the output stream to the corresponding endpoint and the sum stream to the other endpoints in said plurality of endpoints connected to the audio conference, said audio conference supporting full service conferencing in said audio conference to said endpoint with a reservation system and a call agent.

Claim 28 (new): The method of claim 27 wherein the audio conference supports dynamically routed audio signals within said packet-switched network.

Claim 29 (new): The method of claim 27 wherein the audio conference supports passive participants in said packet-switched network.

Claim 30 (new): The method of claim 27 wherein the audio conference supports dial out from said audio conference to an additional endpoint.

Claim 31 (new): The method of claim 27 wherein said media gateway and said multiple control unit are part of a bridge server.

Claim 32 (new): An audio conferencing method in a hybrid network, said hybrid network having a plurality of endpoints connected to an audio conference therein, said plurality of endpoints having both a circuit-switched endpoint and a packet-switched endpoint, said audio conferencing method comprising the steps of:

receiving in a media gateway input from a corresponding endpoint in said plurality of endpoints connected to the audio conference;

transferring said received input to a multiple control unit;
mixing in said multiple control unit the transferred received input with other input to form a) an output stream that is the sum of each input from said plurality of endpoints exclusive of the input from the corresponding endpoint and b) a sum stream;
matching a) the output stream with the corresponding endpoint and b) the sum stream with other endpoints in said plurality of endpoints connected to the audio conference;
returning the output stream to the corresponding endpoint and the sum stream to the other endpoints in said plurality of endpoints connected to the audio conference.

Claim 33 (new): The method of claim 32 further comprising:
converting in said media gateway the received input to a multiple-control-unit-usable format.

Claim 34 (new): The method of claim 33 further comprising:
selecting in said media gateway the converted input.

Claim 35 (new): The method of claim 32 further comprising:
transferring said matched output stream and said matched sum stream to said media gateway.

Claim 36 (new): The method of claim 35 further comprising:
converting in said media gateway said matched output stream and said matched sum stream to an endpoint-usable format.